Poorest and richest districts in the country

1668. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ten most advanced and richest districts in the country;

(b) the per capital income in such districts;

(c) the per capital income in 100 poor districts in the country;

(d) whether out of 100 poorest districts in the country, 38 are in Bihar, if so, whether Government have taken any special measures/ assistance for upliftment of these distrits, on priority basis; and

(e) in not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment has not conducted any survey to identify ten most advanced and richest districts of the country.

(c) The Sarma Committee was constituted to identify the criteria for identification of the 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. Hence the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has not identified the 100 poor districts in the Country.

(d) and (e) In view of reply at (c) above, question does not arise.

Watershed Programme in Andhra Pradesh

1669. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Ministry of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYEMNT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any watershed programme has been implemented in Cuddapah and Chitoor districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the funds allotted for this purpose in 1998-99;

(c) whether it is a fact that the watershed programme has been effective in raising water levels; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance propagation of watershed schemes in Andhara pradesh?

The Minister of State of The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Shri Babagowda R Patil):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 179.47 lakhs has been released for implementation of project under IWDP scheme in Chitoor district of Adhara Pradesh during 1998-99. No fund has been released to Cuddapah district under IWDP scheme during current year. However, an amount of Rs. 156.79 lakhs has already been released upto 31.3.1998 for implementation of this project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government always encourages for enchancing the propagation of Watershed Development Programme in all the States including Andhra Pradesh.

Construction of houses under IAY

1670. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed in each State; particularly in Assam, under the Indira Awaas Yojana during 1995 to 1998 and till date;

(b) whether the target fixed by Government for those years have been achieved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The number of houses constructed in each State including Assam under Indira Awas Yojana from 1995 to 1998 and till date is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Target and percentage achievement is given in the enclosed statement-II below. The State-wise targets achieved is reasonably satisfactory.